

1-1 By: Nelson S.B. No. 55  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 10, 2014; January 26, 2015,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and  
1-4 Military Installations; March 16, 2015, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; March 16, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Campbell	X		
1-9	Burton	X		
1-10	Birdwell	X		
1-11	Garcia	X		
1-12	Hall	X		
1-13	Lucio	X		
1-14	Rodríguez	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the creation of a grant program to support community  
1-18 mental health programs for veterans with mental illness.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
1-21 amended by adding Section 531.0992 to read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 531.0992. GRANT PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR  
1-23 VETERANS. (a) To the extent funds are appropriated to the  
1-24 commission for that purpose, the commission shall establish a grant  
1-25 program for the purpose of supporting community mental health  
1-26 programs providing services and treatment to veterans with mental  
1-27 illness.

1-28 (b) The commission shall contract with a private entity to  
1-29 support and administer the grant program. The contract between the  
1-30 commission and the private entity must require that:

1-31 (1) the commission and the private entity each provide  
1-32 one-half of the money that will be awarded under the grant program;

1-33 (2) the private entity develop eligibility criteria  
1-34 for grant applicants, acceptable uses of grant money by grant  
1-35 recipients, and reporting requirements for grant recipients; and

1-36 (3) the private entity obtain the commission's  
1-37 approval of the eligibility criteria, acceptable uses, and  
1-38 reporting requirements developed under Subdivision (2) before  
1-39 awarding any grants under the program.

1-40 (c) The executive commissioner shall adopt any rules  
1-41 necessary to implement the grant program under this section.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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